Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A ~~text composition spacing amount setting device for a~~ desktop publishing (DTP) system, comprising:

at least one inter-character-class spacing amount setting table, for use in line composition, for grouping similar characters, forming a plurality of character classes and for setting inter-character spacing amounts between a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character within a pair of ~~continuous~~ contiguous characters;

a display device for displaying electronic text that has been line composed; and

an input device for providing user input;

wherein the DTP system includes a basic settings mode and a detailed settings mode operable to receive an inter-character spacing amount input from a DTP system user, ~~the text composition spacing amount setting device has a~~ the basic settings mode for ~~setting~~ modifying the inter-character spacing amounts using a character class relationship table defining a relationship between the character class for the previous character and the character class for the next character and a the detailed settings mode for ~~setting~~ modifying the inter-character spacing amounts directly without using the character class relationship table.

2.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text composition spacing amount setting device~~ DTP system
of claim 1, wherein the plurality of character classes includes one or more of (1) starting
parenthesis, (2) ending parenthesis, (3) characters that cannot appear at the start of a line, (4)
non-centered punctuation, (5) centered punctuation, (6) period, (7) comma, (8) repeating
characters that cannot be broken across lines, (9) preceding abbreviation code, (10) following
abbreviation code, (11) full-width ideographic spaces, (12) hiragana, (13) Japanese characters
other than character classes (1) through (12), (14) full-width numeral, (15) half-width numeral,
(16) half-width Roman text, (17) start of line, (18) start of paragraph, and (19) end of line.

3.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text composition spacing amount setting device~~ DTP system
of claim 1, wherein the character class relationship table associates the same inter-character
spacing amount between the class of the previous character and the class of the next character in
a pair of contiguous characters. ~~two adjacent character sets, each character set including a
previous character and a next character.~~

4.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text composition spacing amount setting device~~ DTP system
of claim 2, wherein the character class relationship table provides the same
inter-character spacing amount if the character class for either the previous character or the next
character is non-punctuation (that is, any of character classes (3), (4), (8), (9), (10), (12), (13),
(14), (15), or (16) or if the character class for either the previous character or the next character is
(5) centered punctuation.

5.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text-composition spacing amount setting device~~ <u>DTP system</u>

of claim 4, wherein the <u>inter-character</u> spacing amount can be set by a user input in the basic

settings mode <u>of the DTP system</u> if the character class for the previous character and the

character class for the next character have any of the following relationships:

1)   Non-punctuation ->Starting parenthesis,

2)   Ending parenthesis ->Non-punctuation,

3)   Ending parenthesis ->Starting parenthesis,

4)   Period ->Starting parenthesis,

5)   Period ->Non-punctuation,

6)   Comma ->Starting parenthesis,

7)   Comma ->Non-punctuation,

8)   Centered punctuation -><-Centered punctuation,

9)   Half-width Roman text -><-Non-punctuation,

10)   Start of paragraph ->Starting parenthesis,

11)   Start of paragraph ->Non-punctuation,

12)   Start of line ->Starting parenthesis,

13)   Ending parenthesis ->End of line,

14)   Period ->End of line,

15)   Comma ->End of line,

16)   Centered punctuation ->End of line.

6.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text-composition spacing amount setting device~~ <u>DTP system</u>

of claim 5, wherein the user settable <u>inter-character</u> spacing amount for items 1)through 16)are

displayed in a dialog box on the display device, and wherein the ~~text-composition spacing~~

~~amount setting device further~~ <u>DTP system</u> is operable to receive an <u>DTP system</u> user input

setting an optimum value, a minimum value, and a maximum value for the <u>inter-character</u>

spacing amount for each item 1) through 16).

7.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text composition spacing amount setting device~~ DTP system
of claim 1, wherein a spacing amount setting file is provided in which file a file name can be
attached to an inter-character-class spacing amount setting table having spacing amounts set by a
DTP system user and saved, the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table saved in the
file being accessible and modifiable by a user in either the basic settings mode or in the detailed
settings mode.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-
readable medium, for setting [[at]] a text composition spacing amount in a desktop publishing
(DTP) system, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
        display on a display device a spacing amount saved in an inter-class character table in
response to a DTP system user selection in the inter-character class spacing amount setting table,
for use in line composition, the inter-character class spacing amount setting table grouping
similar characters, forming a plurality of character classes and for defining inter-character
spacing amounts between a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next
character within a pair of ~~continuous~~ contiguous characters; and
        display on a display device the spacing amount saved in the inter-character class spacing
amount setting table in a DTP system mode selected by a user input, the mode being selected
from: a basic settings mode ~~setting~~ operable to receive an input from a DTP system user for
modifying the inter-character class spacing amounts using a character class relationship table
defining a relationship between the character class for the previous character and the character
class for the next character for the selected inter-character-class spacing amount setting table,
and a detailed settings mode operable to receive an input from a DTP system user for ~~setting~~
modifying the inter-character class spacing amounts directly without using the character class
relationship table.

9.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the plurality of character classes includes one or more of: (1) starting parenthesis, (2) ending parenthesis, (3) Japanese characters that cannot appear at the start of a line, (4) non-centered punctuation, (5) centered punctuation, (6) period, (7) comma, (8) repeating characters that cannot be broken across lines, (9) preceding abbreviation code, (10) following abbreviation code, (11) full-width ideographic spaces, (12) hiragana, (13) Japanese characters other than character classes (1) through (12), (14) full-width numeral, (15) half-width numeral, (16) half-width Roman text, (17) start of line, (18) start of paragraph, and (19) end of line.

10.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the character class relationship table associates the same inter-character spacing amount between the class of the previous character and the class of the next character in a pair of contiguous characters. two adjacent character sets, each character set including a previous character and a next character.

11.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the character class relationship table provides the same inter-character spacing amount if the character class for either the previous character or the next character is non-punctuation (that is, any of character classes (3), (4), (8), (9), (10), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), or if the character type of either the previous character or the next character is (5) centered punctuation.

12.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the
inter-character spacing amount can be set by a user input in the basic settings mode if the
character class for the previous character and the character class for the next character have any
of the following relationships:

    1)   Non-punctuation ->Starting parenthesis,

    2)   Ending parenthesis ->Non-punctuation,

    3)   Ending parenthesis ->Starting parenthesis,

    4)   Period ->Starting parenthesis,

    5)   Period ->Non-punctuation,

    6)   Comma ->Starting parenthesis,

    7)   Comma ->Non-punctuation,

    8)   Centered punctuation -><-Centered punctuation,

    9)   Half-width Roman text -><-Non-punctuation,

    10)   Start of paragraph ->Starting parenthesis,

    11)   Start of paragraph ->Non-punctuation,

    12)   Start of line ->Starting parenthesis,

    13)   Ending parenthesis ->End of line,

    14)   Period ->End of line,

    15)   Comma ->End of line,

    16)   Centered punctuation ->End of line.

13.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising
instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

    display the user settable spacing amount for items 1) through 16)in a dialog box on the
display device; and

    receive a DTP system user input setting an optimum value, a minimum value and a
maximum value for the spacing amount for each item 1) through 16).

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein a spacing amount setting file is provided in which file a file name can be attached to an inter-character class spacing amount setting table having spacing amounts set by a <u>DTP system</u> user and saved, the inter-character class spacing amount setting table saved in the file being accessible and modifiable by a user in either the basic settings mode or in the detailed settings mode.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~text composition spacing amount setting device for a~~ DTP system, comprising:

at least one inter-character-class spacing amount setting table, for use in line composition, that the at least one inter-character-class spacing amount setting table grouping similar characters, forming a plurality of character classes and <u>for</u> setting inter-character spacing amounts between a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character within a pair of ~~continuous~~ <u>contiguous</u> characters;

a display means capable of displaying electronic text that has been line composed; ~~and~~

an input means with which a user can perform input; <u>and</u>

~~wherein the~~ <u>a</u> spacing amount setting means ~~is~~ operable to start in response to <u>a</u> user input and ~~has~~ <u>having</u> a basic settings mode and a detailed setting mode operable to receive an inter-character spacing amount input from a DTP system user, ~~a~~<u>the</u> basic settings mode ~~that~~ <u>for</u> modifying ~~sets~~ the <u>inter-character</u> spacing amount<u>s</u> using a character class relationship table that defines the relationship between the character class of the previous character and the character class of the next character, and ~~a~~<u>the</u> detailed settings mode ~~that~~<u>for modifying</u> ~~sets~~ the inter-character spacing amount<u>s</u> directly without using the character class relationship table.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium recording a text composition spacing amount setting program for executing by a computer in a desktop publishing system, comprising:

a procedure for displaying on a display means a spacing amount saved in an inter-character-class spacing amount setting table when a user selects the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table, for use in line composition, that the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table grouping similar characters, forming a plurality of character classes and for setting inter-character spacing amounts between a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character within a pair of ~~continuous~~ contiguous characters; and

a procedure for displaying on a display means the spacing amount saved in the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table in a mode selected by the user from: a basic settings mode ~~that~~ operable to receive an input from a DTP system user for modifying ~~sets~~ the inter-character spacing amounts using a character class relationship table that defines the relationship between the character class of the previous character and the character class of the next character for said selected inter-character-class spacing amount setting table, and a detailed settings mode operable to receive an input from a DTP system user for modifying ~~that sets~~ the inter-character spacing amounts directly without using the character class relationship table.